Plan Phase-I which was under implementation since 1985 has come to a close on 31-3-2000. However, in this phase only about 35 per cent of the total sewage presently generated in towens along the river Ganga has been tackled. Wherever the works already completed have been made functional the water quality of Ganga has shown improvement in terms of both the Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO), the two improtant parameters to assess the water quality. The details of summer average of the BOD and DO values at different monitoring stations along the Ganga during the period from 1986 to 1999 are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 105] The remaining pollution presently reaching Ganga and its major tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which was approved in phases between April 1993 and October 1996 at a cost of Rs. 1276.26 crore and is already under implementation.

Pollution Level in Delhi

4291. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is the most polluted city in the country;

(b) if so, what is its level of pollution and what is the level of pollution of other metros in the country; and

(c) what drastic measures are being undertaken to minimise the pollution level in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) In Delhi, the levels of pollutants are within the prescribed national ambient air quality standards except for Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the ambient levels of pollutants (annual average) measured in residential areas in metro cities including Delhi during the year 1999 are as indicated in the following table :

City	Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)($\mu g/m^2$)	Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)($\mu g/m^3$)	Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)($\mu g/m^3$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Delhi	16.3	26.5	351
Mumbai	14.4	29.9	247

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Calcutta	31.5	29.2	268
Chennai	8.2	14.0	77
Hyderabad	15.8	28.4	223
Ahmedabad	10.8	10.3	340

(c) The steps taken to control pollution in Delhi include ban on registration of vehicles auctioned by Defence/Government Organizations, phasing out and ban on plying of all commercial/transport vehicles which are more than 15 years old, ban on registration of vehicles replacing petrol engine with diesel, ban on plying of buses more than eight year old except on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or other clean fuels, replacement of all pre-1990 autos and taxies with new vehicles on clean fuels, adoption of stringent Mass Emission Standards known as Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II standards.

Seizures of Shahtush Shawls in Delhi

4292. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI AMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) how many seizures have been made by the Delhi Forest Deptt. For possessing Shahtush Shawls and other similar products ;

(b) what is the status of such seizures ;

(c) how many persons have since been arrested in this connection ; and

(d) whether Government plan to give last change to Shahtush owners all over the country to declare their possessions for a fee, within a particular time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As informed by Chief Wildlife Warden, Delhi, 15, seizures have been made by Delhi forest department/ Delhi police etc. for possessing Shahtoosh Shawls and other similar products.

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